

*pl* are degraded. In addition, the deformation amount at the time of hitting is large, and the spin amount is large, which reduces the flight distance.--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 18-19 (page 18, lines 22-25 and page 19, lines 1-23), with the following rewritten paragraph:

*22* --The cover **3** of the present invention contains thermoplastic resin, particularly ionomer resin, which has been conventionally used for the cover of golf balls, as a base resin. The ionomer resin may be a copolymer of ethylene and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid, of which a portion of carboxylic acid groups is neutralized with metal ion, or a terpolymer of ethylene,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid ester, of which a portion of carboxylic acid groups is neutralized with metal ion. Examples of the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid in the ionomer include acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, crotonic acid and the like, preferred are acrylic acid and methacrylic acid. Examples of the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid ester in the ionomer include methyl ester, ethyl ester, propyl ester, n-butyl ester and isobutyl ester of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, crotonic acid and the